

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Concrete Block Building Inventory Number: CT-1269

Address: 1240 E. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings, MD 20736, Calvert County

Owner: Della M. Straus, 1240 E. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings, MD 20736

Tax Parcel Number: 122 Tax Map Number: 7

Project MD 260: Bridge 4022 and Relocation of Mt. Harmony Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: no X yes Name: Kelly Steele Date: 05/23/2000

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no yes Name of District:

Is district listed?: X no yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Description:

The building at 1240 E. Mt. Harmony Road is a combination commercial/residential structure that now houses apartments. This 1948, two-story building consists of panel-faced concrete block on the lower half and aluminum siding on the second story. As the structure sits on the lot, it faces south, with paving on the west side and vegetation on the north and east sides. The south side has a fenced, landscape area standing between the residence and the roadway. The structure has a rectangular footprint and, while the lines of the original gambrel roof are visible, additions to the east and west extend the second-story and form a low-pitched gable roof.

The main, south, façade has a large, single pane window and wooden panels in the space of a former garage/delivery door. Just east of this window, also on the first floor, is a contemporary door and sidelight. On the second story, two pairs of 1/1 modern windows are evenly spaced and a vent opening is centered at the gable peak. An air conditioning unit hangs out of one of the second story windows.

Prepared by: Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: A B X C D Consideration A B C D E F G None

Comments:


Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services


Date


Reviewer, NR Program

8/28/00
Date

Concrete Block Building

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The west side consists of three bays, articulated by concrete block projected divisions. Two of the bay contain a pair of 1/1 windows on the first level and a set of three windows on the second floor. The third bay has the same window set on the second level, but has a single large window and a door on the first floor. All of the lower level openings have been altered and reduced in size; original lintels remain in the wall, and the openings have been filled with brick, concrete, and wood. In the third bay, where the door and large window now stand, a garage/delivery door once existed.

The east side of the building has the same bay configuration as the west side, and each bay houses a pair of windows on the first story with a set of three windows on the second story. On the north side of the structure stands a staircase that leads to a second story door. A flat roof extension projects from the façade in order to cover the stairs. The flat roof is supported by plain wooden posts at the north corners.

Significance:

Calvert County, established in 1654, is located in southern Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Within the county, settlement occurred along the north and south shores of the Patuxent River as early as 1639. Settlement spread quickly through the county, with most of the tillable land occupied by the end of the 17th century. With this dispersed settlement, the county contained few towns

A combination of favorable soil and topography, and good river transportation helped establish agriculture as the main economic factor. Tobacco became the chief crop and remained so until the late 20th century. This emphasis on agriculture promoted large land holdings without much town development. This pattern continued through the Revolutionary War, at which time the decline of the plantation system and the proliferation of small farms changed the county socially and supported the growth of small towns and crossroad villages.

The introduction of the railroad in 1868 also helped influence the development of the county. While railroads did not play a large role in Calvert County, the Washington & Chesapeake Railroad, started in 1891 to provide travel between Washington, DC and a planned resort at Chesapeake Beach, did spur the development of small communities and service centers around the railroad freight and flag stops. However, during the 1930s, substantial road improvements replaced the reliance on boats and trains for transportation. Such infrastructure improvements enabled the county to grow and develop in conjunction with the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area expansion. With these metropolitan areas extending into Calvert County, the economic reliance on tobacco declined, and metropolitan development, recreation and tourism started driving the economy of Calvert County.

The area around the Mt. Harmony Road/ MD 260 intersection was slow to develop, with the first road in the area appearing on an 1865 map (predecessor of Mt. Harmony Road). On an 1885 map, a "colored" church appears in the area. Then, between 1897 and 1899, the Washington & Chesapeake Beach Railway came through the area, and the Mt. Harmony railway station was located within the project area (despite the fact that the village of Mt. Harmony was about 1 mile west). However, the railway went bankrupt in 1935, and its tracks were taken up, and the bed abandoned. A large portion of MD 260 was subsequently built on the abandoned railroad alignment. Many of the residential and commercial structures in the project area were built during the 1940s, with some adjacent residences constructed in the 1980s.

National Register Evaluation:

While the building at 1240 E. Mt. Harmony Road does represent 1940s commercial architecture in Calvert County, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60. The structure does not possess an association with significant events or trends, and is not eligible under Criterion A. The structure is not eligible under Criterion B either. Research did not identify any known association with significant persons. Similarly, the structure is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. While the structure does characterize a concrete-block construction, vernacular plan commercial structure, the building is not unique and modern additions and county development have compromised the structure's design, setting, materials, workmanship,

Concrete Block Building

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feeling, and association. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D, and the seven criteria considerations do not apply.

Inventory No. CT-1269

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. Geographic Region:

- ☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☒ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930- Present
☐ Unknown Prehistoric
☐ Unknown Historic

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

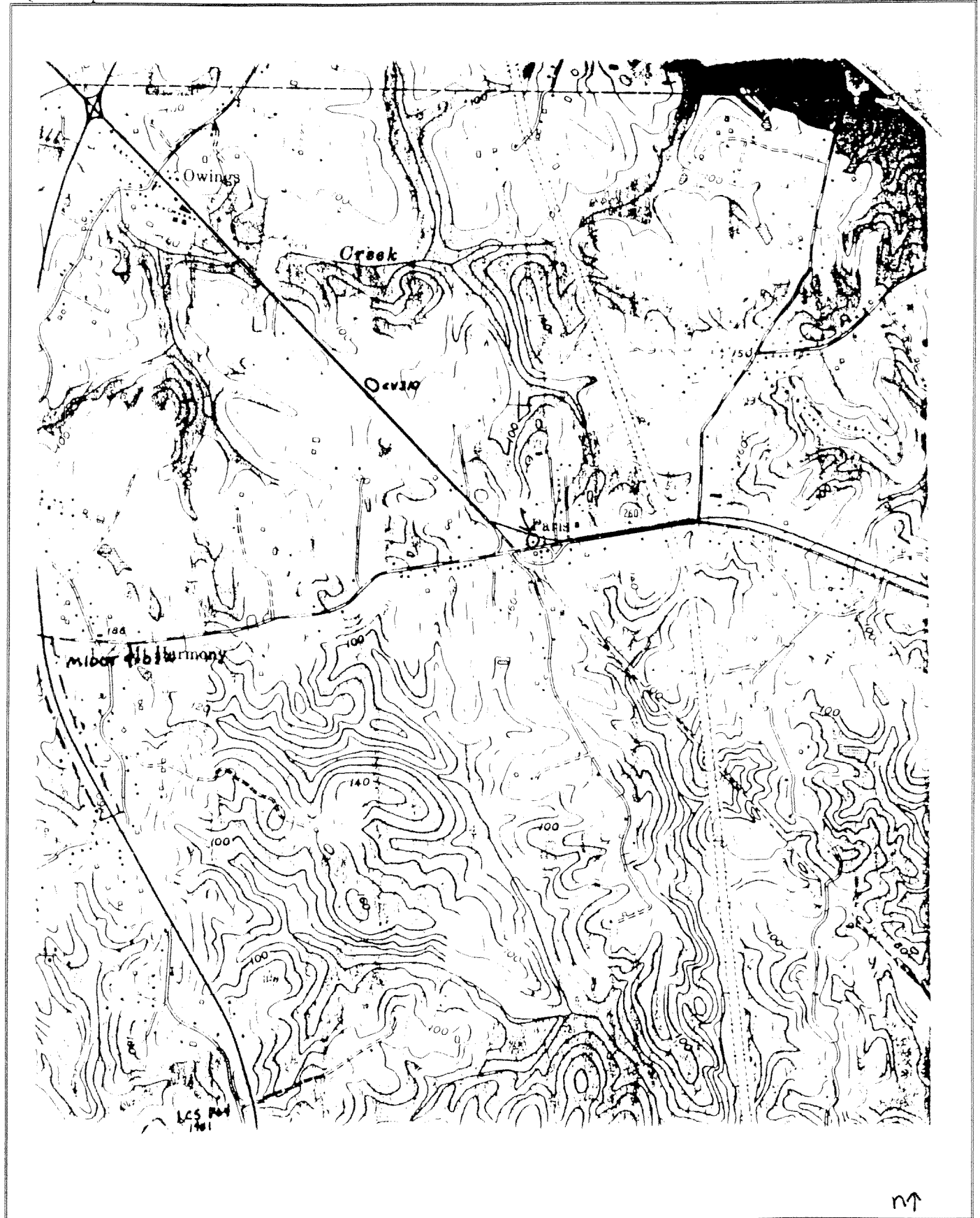
Category: Building

Historic environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commerce/specialty store

Known Design Source: None

Survey No. CT-1269
Resource Name Concrete Block Building
Town/County Owings/Calvert County
Quad Map North Beach





1. CT-1369
2. Concrete Block Building
1240 E. Mt Harmony Road, Stow, MD 20736

3. Calvert County, MD

4. Heather Confer

5. Feb 2000

6. MD SHPO

22FEB00 PHOTOGRAPH ——— 15TH MINN ———

7. South + West facades, taken from Mt Harmony roadway
facing N/NE

8. 10F1